GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1013
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
Citizenship to Bangladeshi Hindu Immigrants
Ajmal Shri Sirajuddin

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to grant citizenship to Hindu Bangladeshi immigrants of post 1971 period who are now living in Assam and West Bengal;

(b) whether the porous borders and the illegal immigration are causing unexpected demographic changes among the native population of the country including Assam and West Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to speed up fencing of the Indo-Bangladesh border and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) The Central Government has introduced the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in the Lok Sabha for amendment of the term "illegal migrants" enabling migrants of minority communities, like Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jains and Parsis from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who have entered into India on or before 31st December, 2014 to obtain Indian Citizenship under the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the rules made thereunder. The Bill has been referred to a Joint Committee.
(b) & (c): There is no specific report on whether the porous borders and the illegal immigration are causing unexpected demographic changes among the
native population of the country including Assam and West Bengal.
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(d): The Government is making all efforts to speed up fencing along Indo-Bangladesh border. For that purpose, periodic review of progress of work is taken with stakeholders to speed up the balance fence work. Government has taken various steps which inter-alia include strengthening of the Border Security Forces and equipping them with modern equipments, erection of fencing, installation of floodlights, coordinated patrolling, identification and reduction of vulnerable gaps between the border posts, strengthening of reverine patrolling etc. along Indo-Bangladesh border.

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